

November/December 2008

Kittitas County FSA Today

Kittitas County FSA

607 Mt. View Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926 Office Phone: (509) 925-8585 Office Fax: (509) 925-8591

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Closed Legal Holidays



Office Staff

Brent Reitmeier, CED Betty Cervine, PT

Farm Loan Staff (509) 454-5746

Lisa Ruff, FLM Scott Smith, FLO Crispin Garza, Service Center Liaison Sandy Christensen, FLP Tech.



County Committee

Rick Haberman, Chair Brent Dekoning, Vice Chair Bart Bland, Member Cristi Eaton, Advisor

Next COC Meeting

Tuesday, December 8th 9:00 AM

Handicapped Accommodations:

Special accommodations will be arranged for those persons with a physical, vision, or hearing impaired disability. If special accommodations are needed, please contact our office

Important Dates

12/01 – Deadline to purchase NAP and CAT coverage for 2009 crops

12/01 – Ballots for County Committee Election are due



Nap Coverage - Plan for 2009 and New Disaster Programs

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

NOTE: The application deadline date for 2009 NAP coverage has been extended to December 1, 2008 for those crops with deadlines prior to that date. In Kittitas County the deadline for native range, small grains, and forage crops has always been September 30th. With this extension, the application fees will not be due until December 1, 2008. The new fees, as prescribed in the newly passed farm bill, are \$250 per crop per county, up to \$750 for single county producers and \$1,875 for multi county producers. For limited resource producers the fee can be waived. IMPORTANT: Participation in NAP is required to be eligible for the new disaster programs authorized in the new farm bill when implemented. This is referred to as the "Risk Management Purchase Requirement". There is a waiver for this requirement if a producer is socially disadvantaged, limited re-source or a beginning farmer or rancher. The new Farm Bill programs are as follows:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE): Covers crop revenue losses from quantity or quality deficiencies in disaster declared counties, contiguous counties, or in cases where the overall production loss exceeds 50%.
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP): Compensates livestock owners for forage losses due to drought. Additionally, losses due to wildfire will be covered on public lands.
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP): Provides for partial reimbursement for replanting, salvage, pruning, debris removal and land preparation for orchardists and nursery tree growers if losses exceed 15%.
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP): Emergency relief to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish. Covers losses from disasters such as adverse weather or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires not adequately covered by any other disaster program. This program is authorized at the discretion of the Secretary.

Another disaster program authorized by the Farm Bill is the **Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)** for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality. This is the only disaster program that <u>does not</u> require crop insurance or NAP coverage.

These new farm bill programs replace any other programs we have had in prior years. **Therefore, if you wish to be able to apply for benefits in the event of drought or other natural disasters, you must apply for NAP coverage by December 1, 2008.**

Further details of all of these new disaster programs, including signup information, will be provided at a later date. Note that additional requirements exist for disaster programs eligibility.

Wool, Mohair 2008 Benefits



There is still time to apply for price support benefits for your wool and/or mohair. Producers can request benefits any time **up until January 31**, **2009** as long as you have not sold your wool and/or mohair before you sign the application with our office.

If the CCC-633EZ form page 1 is not received by the office before you sell, you are ineligible for payment.

When you sell your wool and mohair there is another form that must be completed. Please contact our office for additional information.



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Where's the STEER? Where's the LAMB? Where's the SWINE? YOUTH LOANS AVAILABLE FOR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW PROJECTS AND OTHER AG PROJECTS

Contact Farm Service Agency if funds are needed to purchase a show project animal, feed, show equipment, or to finance an income-producing 4-H or FAA project. **Who's eligible?** Any youth between the ages of 10 and 20, who lives in the country or in a community of less than 50,000 people. **How are funds used?** Buy animals, equipment and supplies; buy, rent or repair needed tools and equipment; pay operating expenses for the project.

FSA County Committee Election

County committees play a crucial role in helping county office staff implement the 2008 Farm Bill. Due to the importance of county committee members and their roles, producers are always encouraged to participate in the FSA county committee election.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are more than 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to five members who are elected by eligible local producers.

This year we are electing our representative from Local Administrative Area (LAA) #1 which encompasses cropland, forest and rangeland north of the Vantage Highway to the Chelan County line and from Highway 97 (Blewett Pass) to the Columbia River. Our current representative is Rick Haberman and alternate member is Doss Roberts. Both are up for re-election and are willing and eager to serve the farmers and ranchers of Kittitas County.

- Rick Haberman is a 3rd generation farmer/cattleman that lives in the Lower Naneum area.
- Doss Roberts is a 2nd generation farmer/cattleman that lives in the Naneum area.

FSA mailed ballots to producers beginning Nov. 3rd. The voted ballots are due back at the local county office either via mail or in person by December 1, 2008. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2009.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers and Ranchers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more that 10 years.
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm.
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA.
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size.

Each member of an entity must meet the eligibility requirements. Loan approval is not guaranteed. Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

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